

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/EGABINGTON, JR: LAB

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S/S-CABORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214818

NODIS

CHEROKEE

EYES ONLY FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 8872 ACTION SECSTATE 09 SEP 75

QIOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8872

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: TRANSIT OF ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH SUEZ CANAL

1. AMB OSAMA AL-BAS (FAHMY'S CHEF DE CABINET)
TELEPHONED LATE THIS AFTERNOON, AT FAHMY'S BEHEST,
TO SAY THAT VARIOUS ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS, AND ESPECIALLY
MAARIV, HAVE TODAY CARRIED STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO
THE ZIM NAVIGATION COMPANY INDICATING IT EXPECTS TO
RECEIVE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS DIRECTIVES FROM THE
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ISRAELI CABINET ABOUT PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED

WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST ISRAELI CARGOES TO TRANSIT THE SUEZ CANAL. THIS NEWS IS REPORTEDLY COUPLED IN THE ISRAELI PRESS WITH A STATEMENT BY FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL ALAZAR, NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF ZIM TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGOES THROUG THE SUEZ CANAL IS A POLITICAL CT. THE ISRAELI PRESS ACCOUNTS ALLEGEDLY ADD THAT VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR TRANSFERRING CARGOES FROM VESSELS SCHEDULED TO LAND AT EILAT TO OTHER VESSELS WHICH ARE TRANSITING THE CANAL.

2. FAHMY ASKS THAT THE ABOVE URGENTLY BE BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION WITH HIS REQUEST THAT YOU SPEAK FIRMLY TO THE ISRAELIS TO DESIST FROM ANY SUCH ACTION AT THE PRESENT TIME. EGYPTIANS ARE NOT GOING BACK ON THEIR WORD, AL-BAZ STRESSED, BUT FAHMY CONSIDERS THESE ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS AT THIS DIFFICULT JUNCTURE AS UNTIMELY AND UNHELPFUL. THE ISRAELIS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ADD TO THE "COMMOTION" ALREADY TAKING PLACE IN THE ARAB WORLD ABOUT THE AGREEMENT.

3. FAHMY ASKED FOR AN URGENT REPLY. EILTS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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